

**Public Hearing  
Capital Improvement Program  
Council Chambers  
Wednesday, October 19, 2016  
5 p.m.**

Mr. Waltman, President of Council, called the meeting to order. He stated that the purpose of this public hearing is to obtain public comment on the proposed Capital Improvement Program.

**Attending:** City Councilors Reed, Marmarou, Twyman, Slifko, Waltman, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Daubert, City Clerk Kelleher, City Solicitor Younger, Managing Director Steckman, City Auditor Cituk

**I. Presentation from the Administration**

Mr. Steckman explained that the funding budgeted for 2016 was unused and will roll forward to cover 2017 proposed projects. He stated that in 2016 \$1M in capital funding was collected through the dedication of .01% of the resident and commuter EIT. He noted that 0.2% will be dedicated in 2017. He stated that the 2017 budget includes some capital items with a five (5) year life span such as a trash truck and Ford F150 that were originally carried in the General Fund Budget.

Mr. Steckman stated that some of the capital projects proposed for 2017 are as follows:

- Emerald Ash Borer remediation project
- Grass cutters
- Fire Tower staircase rehabilitation
- Schlegel Park pool improvements (pool floor and decking over a 2 year period)
- Fire Station repairs
- Façade repairs to the Reading Public Library main building
- Repairs to First Energy Stadium

Mr. Slifko questioned if paving projects are included. Mr. Steckman stated that paving projects are covered in the Liquid Fuels Fund as the City shifted the electric bill payment into the General Fund. He stated that paving projects for 2017 include North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, North 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Hill Road. He noted that the repaving of Kenhorst Blvd., will follow the handicapped ramp project and funding for the paving will be shared with UGI.

Mr. Slifko questioned the purchase of a trash truck, as the trash collection will be bid out before the end of the year. He also questioned why Councilors were excluded from conversations about the trash collection program, as there were repeated requests to include Council representation.

Mr. Steckman explained that the Trash Collection RFP will go out this week. He stated that the RFP covers a variety of options that can be considered.

Mr. Twyman also questioned the exclusion of Council representation and he questioned the project proposed for First Energy Stadium. Mr. Marmarou also questioned the repairs for the Stadium.

Mr. Waltman reminded Council that the questions asked could be addressed during the Budget Review sessions.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Waltman opened the floor for public comment. He stated that those registered will be called in the order that they registered to speak. He reminded those registered about the public speaking rules listed on the agenda.

**Evelyn Morrison, of Church Street**, questioned why a stenographer was not present if this is an actual public hearing.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz clarified that while stenographic transcriptions are required by some programs or hearings, they are not required for all.

Ms. Morrison expressed the belief that stenographers are required at hearings affecting the use of public funds. She expressed concern about past accounting allocation problems for the sewer project, noting evidence from a few years ago. She also questioned several of the transfers that have been made. She noted the need for a better trail for funds budgeted in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 in the General Fund and CDBG Action Plan. She expressed concern as many of her submitted Right to Know issues were not responded to and her dissatisfaction that she needs to use the Solicitor's staff for Right to Know requests, rather than individuals in individual departments. She questioned why copies of the Capital Budget were not provided which creates public exclusion. She expressed concern that a variety of CD Loans were not repaid. She stated that the Citizen Board of Directors is concerned with all these issues and will be requesting a meeting with City Council.

As no other citizens expressed the desire to address Council, the public comment period was closed.

### **Council Comment**

None.

**Mr. Daubert moved, seconded by Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adjourn the hearing.**

*Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk*